

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 June 2006 (22.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/065924 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
B61D 45/00 (2006.01) *B65G 57/00* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/045277

(22) International Filing Date:
14 December 2005 (14.12.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/636,014 15 December 2004 (15.12.2004) US

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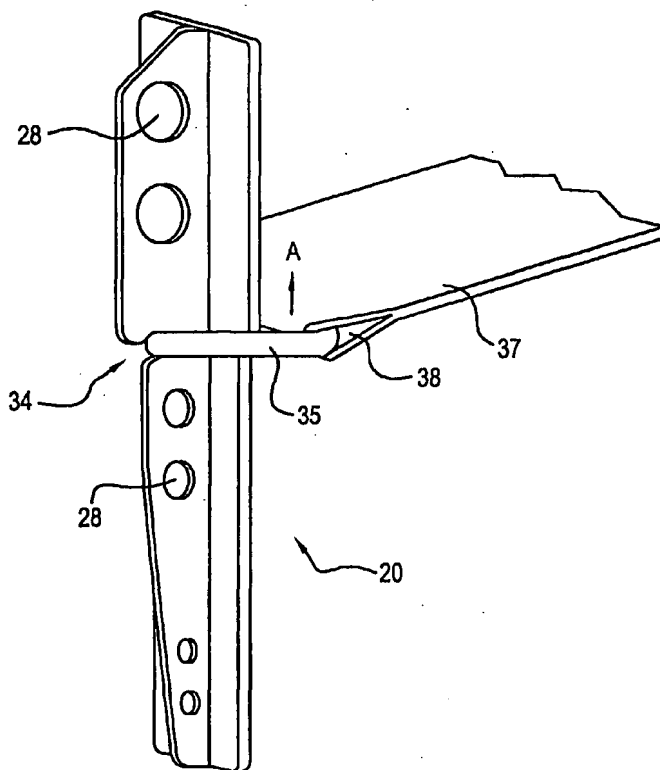
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV,
LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,

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(54) Title: STACKED CARGO SECURING DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A load securing device for stacked cargo comprises a body member having contact surfaces adapted to engage a side portion of each of a pair of stacked cargo items. One end of a flexible member such as a strap is attached to the body member. The flexible member extends through a space created between the stacked items, with its other end being secured to a carrier supporting the stacked items. Optimally, and when expecting forces to be applied to both sides of the stacked items, a load securing device is placed on either side of the stacked items so that forces arising during the transport of the stacked items are resisted in both directions.

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RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
12 April 2007

Date of publication of the amended claims: 21 June 2007

Published:

- with international search report
- with amended claims

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

AMENDED CLAIMS**[received by the International Bureau on 12 April 2007 (12.04.2007)]**

1. A method of securing stacked items on a carrier comprising:
 - a) providing at least first and second loads, the first load placed on a carrier surface, with the second load stacked on the first load, a space existing between the first and second loads;
 - b) positioning at least one first load resisting member against one side portion of each load, and securing the at least one first load resisting member to the carrier via a first flexible member, one end of the first flexible member attached to the at least one first load resisting member, with the other end secured to the carrier, the first flexible member passing through the space; and, optionally
 - c) positioning at least one second load resisting member against the other side portion of each load, and securing the at least one second load resisting member to the carrier via a second flexible member, one end of the second flexible member attached to the at least one second load resisting member, with the other end secured to the carrier, the second flexible member passing through the space.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a number of first and second loads are placed on the carrier, each of the first and second loads secured according to steps (b) and, optionally (c).
3. The method of claim 1, wherein first, second, and third loads are stacked on the carrier surface, at least one third load resisting member contacting one side portion of the second and third loads, and being secured to the carrier using a third flexible member, one end of the third flexible member attached to the at least one third load resisting member, with the other end secured to the carrier, the third flexible member passing through a space between the second and third loads, and optionally at least one fourth load resisting member contacting the other side portion of the second and third loads, and being secured to the carrier using a fourth flexible member, one end of the fourth flexible member attached to the at least one fourth load resisting member, with the other end secured to the carrier, the fourth flexible member passing through the space between the second and third loads.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second load resisting members are employed.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein the third and fourth load resisting members are employed.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the side portions of the loads are either lateral side portions or front and back side portions.
7. A load securing device for securing items placed on a carrier comprising:
 - a) a load resisting member having a body with a pair of load bearing surfaces;
 - b) a flexible member, one end of the flexible member secured to a central portion of the body of the load resisting member, and defining a separation of the pair of load bearing surfaces, the other end of the flexible member being free to allow attachment to the carrier and subsequent tensioning.
8. The device of claim 6, wherein the body has an elongate rib running along a length thereof, the load bearing surface being generally perpendicular to a plane of the rib.
9. The device of claim 6, further comprising a ring adapted to attach to the one end of the flexible member, the central portion of the body adapted to retain the ring thereon.
10. The device of claim 6, further comprising a ring adapted to attach to the one end of the flexible member, the central portion of the body having a notch portion, the ring adapted to engage the notch portion during tensioning of the flexible member.
11. The device of claim 6, wherein the flexible member is one of a belt, cable, chain.
12. The device of claim 10, wherein the load bearing surfaces extends over first and second portions of the body, the notch portion separating the first and second

portions, with the first portion sized to allow the ring to pass over the first portion and engage the notch portion.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the second portion is sized larger than the first portion to create a stop for the ring.
14. A method of securing stacked items on a carrier, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a load resisting member having a body with a pair of load bearing surfaces; and a flexible member, one end of the flexible member secured to a central portion of the body of the load resisting member, the other end of the flexible member being free;
 - b) providing at least two loads stacked vertically on a carrier;
 - c) positioning the flexible member between a space created by the two stacked loads;
 - d) attaching the free end of the flexible member to the carrier; and
 - e) tensioning the flexible member so that each load bearing surface of the body contacts a respective side portion of each load to resist forces applied in the direction of the load resisting member.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein a number of load resisting members are used horizontally.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the stacked loads comprise at least three loads stacked vertically to create a pair of spaces, wherein steps (a), (c), (d), and (e) are performed using each space.
17. A load securing device comprising:
 - a) a body having a load bearing surface extending over first and second body portions, respectively;
 - b) at least one rib running along a length of the body and extending in a direction generally parallel to the load bearing surfaces of the first and second body portions; and
 - c) a notch formed between the first and second body portions, the notch adapted to engage a ring so that the ring is secured to the body between the first

and second portions of the body, the ring adapted to attach to one end of a flexible member for securing load using the load bearing surfaces.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the notch divides the body so that the first body portion is more than half a length of the body.

19. The device of claim 17, wherein the body is elongated.

20. The device of claim 17, wherein the load bearing surface of the first portion of the body has a width less than a width the load bearing surface of the second portion, and a first segment of the at least one rib aligned with the first portion has a width less than a width of a second segment of the at least one rib aligned with the second portion, the differences in width creating a stop between the first and second portions and allowing the ring to slide over the first portion and first segment and reach the notch, the stop limiting rotation of the ring.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein one or more of the first portion, the second portion and the at least one rib include openings therein.

22. The device of claim 17, wherein the load bearing surface includes one or more protrusions to increase grabbing power of the surface when contacting cargo.

23. A load securing device comprising:

a) a body having load bearing surfaces extending over first and second body portions,

b) at least one rib running along a length of the body and extending in a direction generally parallel to the load bearing surfaces of the first and second body portions; and

c) means for securing a ring between the first and second body portions, the ring adapted to attach to one end of a flexible member for securing loads using the load bearing surfaces.